

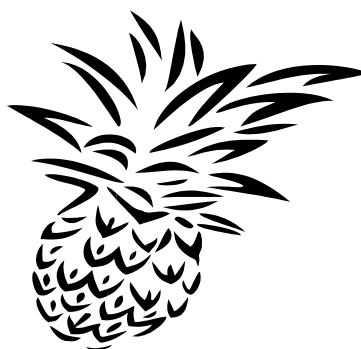
# ***Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W.***

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month  
Next meeting 21st March, 2013 at 11 a.m.

Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery  
114 Pine Street Wardell 2477  
Phone (02) 6683 4188

Discussion: February 2013  
General Discussion  
Quilling

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## **Meeting 17th January 2013**

Ross opened the meeting at 11:15 am, welcoming and wishing everyone a Happy New Year for 2013. The meeting was attended by 30 members and also one guest. Apologies were given for eight members.

The meeting took on a rather sombre atmosphere when Ross announced the news that Uncle Derek had suffered a mild stroke the previous evening. The Group's thoughts and best wishes were expressed for U.D. with Ross electing to pass them on to Derek.

However, fortunately, recent information indicates that U.D. is doing well, and on the road to recovery. He is out of hospital and in Aunty Margaret's capable and loving care.

Linda had a birthday on our meeting day, Happy Birthday Linda from the Group.

## **General Business**

It was pointed out that there was a new attendance book, and to please use it. A clipboard was passed around members seeking suggestions for topics to be discussed in 2013. Once the suggestions are received they will be incorporated into the monthly meetings where possible.

There will be an attempt to incorporate a 'Member's Page' in the monthly newsletter. Most people have cameras and computers and this is one easy way for members to contribute. It is your newsletter and photos/comments of interesting bromeliads and/or related topics would be a welcome addition. These photos etc. can be invested with any of the editors and in a variety of forms viz. hard copies, emails, CD, DVD, or anything that can be scanned. Make sure any pertinent information including the supplier's name is attached to, or on the back of, the item. Ross continued to plead for article contributions to the newsletter. Thus far it appears that articles will be forthcoming on *Canistrum*, carnivorous plants, pressing and drying plants, digital photography, computers and search engines. These together with articles by the regular contributors, should help see us through most of the year.

Thanks to Eileen Killingly of the Illawarra Bromeliad Society we have received the missing 'Bromeletter' years and now have a complete set from the first issue in 1963 up until the present time in our library. Kay indicated that they are now available to borrow, the early issues are hard cover bound, the later issues in envelopes. In fact all newsletters are now catalogued and are available for borrowing. Just present your driver's licence and you can borrow a selection for a month.

Helen is currently constructing an index of bromeliads and articles which have appeared in the FNCBSG NSW newsletter since its inception. She would love some help so someone please offer and help share the load. Shane has offered

to keep the index current once it is established. Thank you Shane.

Ross warned members reading the older journals, books and newsletters that there would have been numerous name changes to those presented in some of the articles. Just take care when identifying and naming your own broms from these items...it is better once you have identified your brom in the older article to bring plant and article in for discussion, and perhaps a name update.

Kay and Ross continued to harangue the senior members regarding Marie's undefeated reign in two sets of competitions for the last two years. Whether or not they were successful will remain to be seen. Kay of course, due to her novice win in 2012, will now compete in the open section. Senior growers with five or more years growing/collecting experience should also compete in the open competition.

For the last few years the competitions have been run on a points system of 1st (3pts), 2nd (2pts), and 3rd (1pt). The membership voted a new change, with 1pt being awarded for entry into the competition. The new system being 1st (4pts), 2nd (3pts), 3rd (2pts), and not placed but competing (1pt). Remember frequency of competing is important to the overall result.

Once plants have been tabled for competition, they are not to be removed until after the results are announced. At that point the winning plants have their history, quality, growing conditions etc. discussed.

Heather has volunteered for the recently created position of "exhibitionist" which requires her to display the winning show plants as Helen calls the results, and the growers make their comments. Thank you Heather.

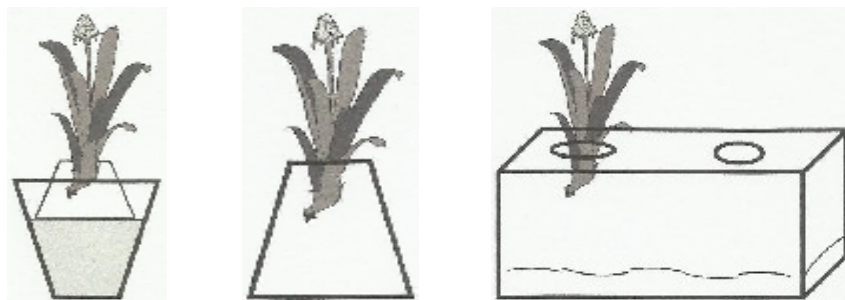
Ross mentioned that the FNCBSG NSW was now entering its 5th year. A viability meeting was held in November of 2008, with the first official meeting of the FNCBSG NSW being held in January 2009. Meg and Ron were the original instigators, with the initial meeting being attended by Meg Kerr, Ron Burns, David Lewis-Hughes, Ross Little, Helen Clewett, Marie Essery, Laurie and Jan Mountford, Dennis Collis and Gary McAteer plus others who no longer attend. Just a snippet of group history for you. Since then of course, everything has grown exponentially with a membership of around 45, and an average monthly attendance of 30 people.

This month's raffle improved the group's coffers by \$146. Thank you all participants.

### **Member's Show and Tell**

Jeanette demonstrated a method for growing roots on rootless broms. It involved cutting a hole in the base of a styrofoam cup, inverting it, and pushing the plant through the hole. Then screw the cup with the brom firmly down into a larger pot containing potting mix (this is for stability). Water when needed. An alternative

method suggested by Ross for larger plants without roots is to use an inverted terra-cotta pot with a hole in the base. This drainage hole may need enlarging to accommodate the brom. Another method incorporates plants pushed through holes in a styrofoam box lid, so that their base rests just above a thin layer of moisture in the box. The use of sphagnum moss in any of these instances is not recommended as it retains moisture and thus assists rotting. John Crawford places his *Alcantarea* 'grass' pups in a split thick-shake straw, which he then pushes into the potting mix. This of course provides stability while the roots grow for these difficult to handle smaller plants.



Jeanette also exhibited a *Tillandsia albertiana*. The plant flowers infrequently, approximately every two to five years. However the wait is well worth it. The petals are a brilliant wine red, the inflorescence is one flowered and relatively large. The leaves are distichous, the plant is known in the wild only from Argentina.

Ross initiated a discussion on *Neoregelia* 'Bullis's Margaret' and referred to the article on p.7 of the FNCBSG NSW Newsletter for Jan. 2013. The delimiting features between *Neo.* 'Bullis's Margaret', *Neo.* 'Margaret', and *Neo.* 'Pemiento', are still unclear. Fortunately our guest Jenny from the Gold Coast answered our call for plants of *Neo.* 'Margaret' to be brought along to the meeting for discussion. Jenny brought two plants along as she felt they were both different but bearing the same name of *Neo.* 'Margaret'. On examination one was clearly *Neo.* 'Pemiento' as we know it, the other being a slightly larger plant with cream spotting to the much broader leaves than we generally see with *Neo.* 'Pemiento', (comparison photo on page 9) this larger plant has now had it's label corrected to *Neo.* 'Bullis's Margaret', whilst Jenny's second plant's label was corrected to *Neo.* 'Pemiento'. Buyer beware, never trust the name on a label.

Linda presented a beautiful variegated pup from an *Alcantarea glaziouana*, possibly with links to *Alcantarea* 'Moray'. She showed that each leaf presented a different set of variegations with respect to number, breadth and position. She is hoping to develop pups each presenting leaves with the same variegations, and will look for pups developing in the axils of the more attractive looking leaves. John suggested a method for developing numerous pups formulated by Chester Skotak and practised by Bruce Dunstan. It involves killing the mother's growing

tip by thrusting a piece of steel or a screwdriver down through the centre of the bromeliad, making sure the tank can drain so no water accumulates and rots the central area. Then tear about 10 or 15 of the lower leaves in half longitudinally. This prevents water accumulation in the leaf axil cup, and makes for easy access and growth. A set of pups should grow in these positions. Once harvested, the next set of leaves can be split and the process repeated. This of course attracted the requisite number of groans, but apparently the method is tried and tested and has its fair share of success.

Laurie showed his *Tillandsia cacticola* (giant form), which he has grown for some 14 or 15 years. Obviously a slow growing plant but very desirable. Other forms have much smaller leaves and flowers. The inflorescence comprises white to yellowish petals with blue to purple tips, pink to lilac sepals and floral bracts, pink to white primary bracts, and whitish scape bracts. Both the primary and scape bracts are covered with trichomes. There is an albino form which has white/yellow petals, and white sepals and floral bracts. Laurie also brought in a *Vriesea* 'Double Pleasure' for I.D. confirmation, and it turned out to be so.

Lesley displayed a *Neoregelia* 'Bossa Nova' and a *Neoregelia* 'Sheba' both very similar the latter with a pink tinge. There are other neoregelias like these including *Neo.* 'Ultima' and *Neo.* 'Zacate'.

According to Derek Butcher and Brazilian experts *Neo.* 'Bossa Nova' can also present pink flushes so that these two cultivars are very similar indeed.

The following brief descriptions may be of some help in differentiating these plants:

*Neo.* 'Bossa Nova'; a cultivar (variegated form) of *Neo. compacta*, but with longer and strappier leaves; albomarginate; can exhibit pink flushes; spineless leaves; clumping; stoloniferous. The plant was first introduced into the U.S.A. in 1988 by Renato Bello of Brazil.

*Neo.* 'Skotak's Sheba'; a hybrid with the seed parent being *Neo. macwilliamsii* ?; a more upright plant; flushed pink; spineless leaves; clumping; shorter stolons; once known as *Neo.* 'Sheba'.

*Neo.* 'Ultima'; hybrid; seed parent *Neo. macwilliamsii*; with medio-picta variegation (green margins); rich pink flushes; spineless leaves; clumping; stoloniferous. This plant has been patented by Deroose.

*Neo.* 'Zacate'; hybrid; seed parent (*Neo. carolinae* X *Neo.* 'Fireball'); pollen parent *Neo. macwilliamsii*; upright and variegated plant; slight blushes of pink; very light speckling; nearly spineless; clumping; highly stoloniferous.

Lesley also exhibited an "albino" pup, which did have some green variegation, which meant the pup would probably live if removed from its mother. Growth however would be quite slow. This pup sparked a discussion on what should or should not be termed albinism. True albino pups are incapable of removal from their mothers and living. Also all morphological features of albinos are white, this should also include all floral parts, often this is not the case, therefore is the plant a true albino if it displays normal colouring in the bracts ?

## **The Raffle** by Trish Kelly

I would like to clarify the Study Group members' obligations and expectations of the monthly Raffle. This is a perennial subject for complaint and comment and of course some members are more enthusiastic about standards than others. We sometimes have to remember that some of our members just like growing plants.

The funds raised from the raffle cover the printing costs of our Newsletter and every other cost that is associated with the successful running of our vibrant Study Group. Because of this, two obligations are shouldered by each member:

- 1) That each member donate to the raffle a bromeliad plant/plants or pup/pups at each meeting he or she attends.
- 2) That the member participate in the raffle by purchasing raffle ticket/s.

We, as members will remember that as these plants are ALL donated and we are only paying \$1.00 per ticket, sometimes our expectations may not always be met. Also keep in mind, some plants come directly from their owner's gardens.

You, are of course, free to buy as many tickets as you wish.

I give my personal experience from the Raffle as an example:

I have taken home some nondescript tiny pups of many species and genera, many of which are now among my better plants. Given time and perhaps another generation, plus plenty of TLC, the plants are brought back to our monthly competition, with some success. This in itself is a great learning experience and sense of achievement.

To give an example of the broad selection of plants that have been collected over several years, there are Vrieseas, Guzmanias, Tillandsias, Nidulariums, Neoregelias, Aechmeas, Cryptanthus, Orthophytums and the list goes on.

It is necessary for us as members to set certain health standards for the plants in the raffle along with minimum standards of presentation.

- 1) All plants must be free from scale or other insect infestation. Infected plants will be removed & not included in the raffle.
- 2) Please remove all dead and trim damaged leaves, empty out the water after cleaning out dead and decaying matter from the plant.
- 3) If a plant is potted it must be secure and not potted the day before, save these for another meeting or present them bare rooted.
- 4) Please name your plant correctly, if you are not sure, have it checked when you get to our FNCBSG NSW meeting.

Lastly just remember our Christmas Raffle and how great it was!!! in other words bring a plant you would be happy to take home, lots of treasures come in the form of insignificant pups and can grow on to greatness.

**Quilling** by Jerry Raak, Gahanna, Ohio.

What's that, your bromeliad is growing up looking like a soda straw?  
It is probably the victim of what is commonly known as "quilling".

Quilling is the cementing together of the leaves, causing the plant to be very tubular in shape. It generally is caused by lack of good moisture while the plant is in an active growing period.

I have found through my years of growing that certain genera are more susceptible to quilling than others. These genera are *Vriesea* and *Guzmania*. Rarely do *Aechmeas* quill, although I have had *Aechmea racinae* var. *tubiformis* and *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite' quill. Within the genus *Vriesea*, certain hybrids and species are notoriously consistent in quilling. Among these are *Vr. x morreniana*, *Vr. ensiformis*, and unfortunately *Vr. 'Viminalis Rex' x Vr. hieroglyphica*, which is a superb hybrid with nicely banded foliage and a fantastic, long lasting, branched blood red inflorescence with, of course, yellow flowers. Within the genus *Guzmania*, the most likely to quill are *Guz. 'Feurn'*, *Guz. 'Fantasia'* and occasionally *Guz. 'Exodus'*. In addition, other species of *Guzmania* and *Vriesea* will quill if grown very dry.

Besides dry conditions, some plants, both species and hybrids are more susceptible because the leaves secrete a very sugary, sticky substance which, if not washed off regularly and thoroughly, causes the leaves to cement together.

To prevent quilling then, one must maintain high humidity, or, quite regularly flush the plant with water to thoroughly wash it off. There is no better way to do this than to expose the plant to a long hard summer rain. This is not possible of course in the winter. Therefore taking the plant to shower with you may sound silly, but an equivalent bathing procedure is very beneficial. Bathing a Bromeliad? Maybe it sounds crazy but it works not only to prevent quilling, but cures it. If you have a plant that has quilled, take a mild liquid detergent or soap and put several drops into the tight centre and fill it with water to overflowing. This procedure should produce lots of suds. The soapy water will dissolve the hardened sticky substance, and then with gentle use of a flat but blunt object, such as a plant marker, the leaves may be loosened from the outer-most to the inner-most. Make sure after loosening the leaves that all traces of the soap are flushed off the leaves with lots of water. This procedure leaves the plant clean and free to continue to grow by absorption of nutrients through, not only the roots, but the leaves as well.

If you have quilling problems, or encounter them in the future, try my prevention and cure, it works !

Reprinted from: Journal Bromeliad Society, 1982, Vol. 32, No. 6.

(photos page 9)



*Vriesea* 'Favoriet' - Marie Essery  
1st Open



*Aechmea orlandiana* - Trish Kelly  
1st Novice and Judges Choice



Neo. 'High Voltage' (unreg.)



*Tillandsia stricta*



Neo. 'Bossa Nova' with a pup showing  
a lot of albinism.



Neo. 'Sheba' and 'Bossa Nova'





*Alcantarea glaziouana* 'variegated'



*Tillandsia albertiana*



Normal growth - no quilling



Quilled



Severe quilling



Neo. 'Pemiento'

Neo. 'Bullis's Margaret'

Showing the slight differences, unfortunately, both bought as Neo. 'Margaret'.

Photo's supplied by: Ross Little and Derek Butcher

## **Small and Furry but Certainly not Cute!**

by Kerry McNicol -- from north west of Sydney

Spring means the flowering of Vrieseas and Tillandsias and unfortunately, the invasion by this little, furry, very UNCUTE caterpillar with a red stripe on its head. (I think it may be a mistletoe caterpillar, but not sure.) They don't seem to touch the plants in the garden but crawl 20m+ into my shade house up onto the benches to find the 'good ones'



It began a couple of years ago with one or two chomping a few of the softer leaved Vrieseas, Nidulariums and occasionally a Tillandsia. A bit of 'tredonem' controlled them nicely with not too much damage done. I was more concerned about those wily katydids - the big eyed, solid bodied grasshopper type insects that see you coming and 'slide' behind the leaf as you try to grab it.

Last year my Vriesea were decimated, chewed leaves ruined the majority of my collection. So my plan was to spray with Neem oil to deter the little critters as it seems to work well enough with only the 'odd' one having a go. These were quickly despatched.

As I was away on an extended caravanning holiday earlier this year, I did not get the opportunity to inspect my plants and pick the caterpillars off. These caterpillars were in plague proportions apparently, so I came home to chewed plants (they obviously breed in autumn too!)



A 'one of' tillandsia pupa chewed by hairy caterpillar

### **They had a party!**



*Tillandsia stricta* type, very tasty indeed, not much left by the hairy caterpillar



The 'half' that was eaten was hanging facing inwards

Needless to say my resolve is even stronger to deter, detect and eliminate, next season!

## **Tidy-up Corner (corrections)** by Eagle Eyed Observers

In our FNCBSG NSW Newsletters errors do occur from time to time, occasionally these are picked up by some eagle eyed readers who let us know. Minor spelling errors we try our best to minimize, however the corrections we are mostly concerned with are 'technical errors and corrections', a lot of articles are reprints which we do try to up-date as much as possible, feel free to advise if you note any technical errors so we can publish the corrections / up-dates. Some errors are caused by auto spell check after commas or stops are put in and we don't always notice that it has happened.

- **December 2012 Newsletter: Variegation in Bromeliads**

First line reads: The word '*variegata*' comes from the Latin *variegates*, .....

Correction Eds: The word '*variegata*' comes from the Latin *variegatus*, .....

- **January 2013 Newsletter: A Quick Guide to Bromeliad Problems**

This article says Crown Rot can be treated by thoroughly rinsing the cup with clean water and filling the cup with a good systemic fungicide for about an hour.

### **The following correction / point of view from Les Higgins**

A more descriptive name for Crown Rot is Bacterial Soft Rot.  
Bacteria is controlled by an antibiotic while a fungicide would have no effect.  
The best antibiotic is Streptomycin or it's veterinary equivalents.  
Bleach is also a popular treatment for bacteria.

### **Another point of view on Crown Rot from R. Smythe MSc.**

Crown rot is a more general term covering bacterial (anaerobic) rot and fungal rot in the crown of bromeliads. Anaerobic bacterial rot reduces sulphur in the plant protein to Hydrogen Sulphide which smells very unpleasant. Fungi on the other hand love sulphur and convert protein into a non smelling product. Smell will determine whether it is a bacterial or fungal rot affecting your plant. Interestingly fungus likes sulphur that much that it will over imbibe and can kill itself when fed over rich sulphur materials. Look at fungicides around, most if not all have sulphur in their make up. **You must use a systemic fungicide**, the fungus is inside the plant and can be far removed from the visible site of infection.

**Preferred treatment:** Check the roots, if rot has gone this far, bin the plant. The overuse of antibiotics is aiding in the development of resistant strains of bacteria and in my opinion should never be used on plants. A much preferred treatment today is the use of bacteriostatic agents (stops further multiplication) ie: detergents and disinfectants. For these plants (the stinkers), Condy's crystals (potassium permanganate) does a great job as would peroxide as these are oxidising agents which work against the anaerobic conditions. Bleach is also an oxidising agent, however a powerful laundry bleach (the most commonly used) becomes caustic, so use cautiously and dilute.

The safer agent to use is the MILTON tabs used for sterilizing nappies etc. which leaves a weak acid like vinegar not a caustic type.

## **A Pup's Ramble** by Herb Plevier

In all plant families reproduction by seeds or spores is the principal means of carrying on and preserving the species. A secondary mechanism developed in the evolutionary process is the production of vegetative offsets.

Almost all bromeliads will produce these offsets, called pups, from their bases or the leaf axils. Upper puppers (*Vriesea splendens* and *Guzmania sanguinea*) and some *Cryptanthus* produce a pup in their centres, next to the inflorescence. Proliferating forms of *Tillandsias* like *T. equatorialis*, *T. pauciflora* and *T. circinnata* produce pups from the top of the inflorescence after flowering.

Offsets are usually put out after flowering, though some bromeliads will pup even before then. A few species such as *Tillandsia lucida* and *T. complanata* will rarely produce pups and reproduce almost exclusively by seed germination.

If one of your plants suddenly develops a dead centre, don't throw it away. A bromel whose growing point has died will usually quickly put out a pup or two. This too is an evolutionary device for the preservation of the species. If you are seeking to rapidly promote a stock of a particular clone, or if you have a plant with centre leaves all stuck together with a lot of bad leaves and would like to start it all over, you can take advantage of that phenomenon by killing the centre of the plant with a hot implement. I use a screw driver heated in the flame of the stove to do this job.

Most bromels will put up an average of 1 to 4 pups after they have flowered. Sometimes these are produced 2 or 3 at a time, but more often one pup will come at a time. When you separate a pup from the parent this seems to stimulate a dormant node or nodes at the base of the plant or in the leaf axils to grow other pups. Thus the faster you take off the first pup, the quicker a second will be produced.

For the hobbyist however, quantity is not as important as quality. It is best to wait until the pup is at least one 1/3 the size of the parent before removing it. The more mature the pup, the easier it will be for it to root and become viable on it's own.

Once the inflorescence becomes unsightly, it is best to remove it as this tends to stimulate the production of more pups. Then it is a good idea to start a regimen of heavy fertilizing. I have usually already started this by fertilizing the plant bi-weekly when it looked like it was ready to bloom, with Peters 10 - 30 - 20 at half strength. After I remove the inflorescence I pour half strength Peters 20 - 20 - 20 into the cup every week, and I have found that this does stimulate the plant to produce multiple pups.

A sharp, strong knife should be used to separate a pup from it's parent. In some *Aechmeas* the stolon connecting the two is so hard you may need to use a small saw or a serrated knife. When removing *Vriesea* pups from the leaf axils you must be careful to preserve as much of the pup's base as possible by cutting into the parent. First make a cut at the outer lower base of the pup before trying to cut down behind it, and don't put too much outward pressure on the pup as it's base will be very soft and brittle and will tend to snap off even under moderate pressure.

You can tell if Cryptanthus pups are ready to be removed by gently applying pressure sideways. If the pup is ready, it will pop off without the need of cutting. Some Cryptanthus pups however, will need to be cut off - just be sure to leave the pup it's full base when you make the cut. After a pup has been removed, it is a good idea to let the cut area callous for 24 hours. This minimizes the danger of infection by bacteria or fungus invading the open wound. Dust the area with Rootone (rooting powder) which contains a fungicide.

I mount the grey, scurfy Tillandsia pups on bark with Liquid Nails adhesive. I plant all other pups in my regular, coarse, well draining mix. I first make sure the mix is thoroughly saturated with water. I fill a pot and then empty the mix into a 1/2 gallon plastic container and work warm water through the mix with my hands until the peat moss is well soaked. Then I press the mix down into a plastic pot and make a deep hole where the pup's base will be placed. I plant the pup deep enough so that the bulges of the lowest leaf sheath are resting slightly below the surface of the medium. A few lower leaves might be lost that way but the plant will be well stabilized in the pot and should root better. I then firm down the mix around the pup so that it is fixed securely and will not wobble around. I pour some water in the centre of the pup, make out a plastic label with the name of the plant and date of potting and place it on a capillary mat tray where it will receive moderate light, but no direct sunlight.

The first 3 or 4 weeks after a pup has been separated from it's parent are critical for it's existence, especially if it has not made any roots while growing on the parent. It will probably not be able to hold water in it's centre and to help it survive until it makes roots you must prevent it from drying out. Using a capillary mat keeps it's mix constantly damp to encourage rooting, or you can spray the pup 2 or 3 times a week and water the medium twice a week until it develops roots and takes hold of the mix.

Once in a while you may find that a Vriesea or Guzmania pup has come up with it's leaves stuck together so they cannot unfurl. When they are cemented like this, it is difficult to separate the leaves without tearing them. If the pup is at least of moderate size, you can cut it off and submerge it in warm water with a little soap or detergent added for about 30 minutes. You may then be able to gently separate and unfurl the leaves, beginning with the lowest leaves.

Article reprinted from: *Bromeliana*, Journal of the New York Bromeliad Society Inc. Vol. XX1V, No.81

Drawing by: M. B. Foster, Brom. Soc. Bulletin, 2 (4), 1952.



Bromeliad Pups

Mrs Waterman was never in the doghouse but she was always finding "pups" on her bromeliads.

### **Novice Popular Vote**

1st	Trish Kelly	<i>Aechmea orlandiana</i>
2nd	Linda Owens	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'High Voltage' (unreg.)
3rd	Debbie Smith	<i>Neoregelia</i> unknown hybrid

### **Open Popular Vote**

1st	Marie Essery	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Favoriet'
2nd	Laurie Mountford	<i>Tillandsia stricta</i>
3rd	Shane Weston Kay Daniels	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Tunisia' x 'Norman Bates' <i>Guzmania</i> 'Zamora'

### **Judges Choice**

1st	Trish Kelly	<i>Aechmea orlandiana</i>
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### **Comments from the growers:**

**Trish's** *Ae. orlandiana* was obtained by trade with Kay two/three years ago. It is a slow grower under 50% shade cloth. It has sun most of the day, is fed Osmocote and watered twice weekly.

**Linda's** *Neo.* 'High Voltage' was acquired from the Waites in Caboolture six months ago. It's a *Neo.* 'Tiger' hybrid displaying lovely stripes. It has two hours of full morning sun and the rest of the day in dappled sunlight. Receives rain water and is hand watered once bimonthly.

**Note regarding Neo. 'High Voltage':** This brom is a Grant Groves hybrid being *Neo.* 'Hannibal Lector' X *Neo.* 'Foster's Pink Tip'. *Neo.* 'Hannibal Lector' results from *Neo.* 'Rafa' (of the ampullacea group) X *Neo.* 'Skotak's Tiger' (a natural epiphyte or lithophyte, perhaps a different form of carcharodon or pascoaliana). *Neo.* 'Foster's Pink Tip' is a cultivar of *Neo. johannis*. *Neo.* 'High Voltage' is as yet unregistered.

**Debbie's** *Neo.* hybrid has been growing in her garden for two years under dappled light. It receives rain and no fertilizer.

**Marie's** *Vr.* 'Favoriet' was a gift from her sister four years ago. This is the third generation of pups. Grown under 70% beige shade cloth (good light). Water approx. once per week, fed Osmocote

**Laurie's** *Till. stricta* specimen originated as one plant in 1993. The eventual clump comprised numerous individual plants which were held with pins and glued onto a cork board in July 2012 (photo p.8). Grown under 50% biscuit shade cloth giving dappled bright light. Watered and fertilized nightly in summer.

**Kay's** *Guz.* 'Zamora' is a market acquisition from 2012. It needs shade and is grown under fibreglass sheeting with mesh on the side. It is watered every second day. Fertilized with Osmocote. A little quilling.

**Shane's** *Neo.* 'Tunisia' X *Neo.* 'Norman Bates', acquired from Peter Tristram eight months ago. Unregistered, still under formula. Grown under 70% biscuit shade cloth, watered twice weekly; occasionally fertilized with seaweed extract.

### **Murphy's Law of Bromeliads.**

In the beginning there were the Universal Laws - principles that attempted to define some aspects of reality. But soon man realised the errors of his ways and people like Edsel Murphy began to write laws which reflect the real world. A world dominated not by nature, but by inanimate objects and capricious human behaviour. Below are a few "Laws" by Murphy and his friends as they applied to bromeliads:-

**Murphy's Law** : The limb always falls on the most perfect bromeliad the day before a show.

**Buttered Side Down Law** : Any plant knocked from a shelf will fall so as to do the most possible damage to itself and all the plants below it.

**Hybridizer's Hypothesis** : The most undesirable traits of the parents always manifest themselves in the hybrid, 2 years later.

**Tsk Tsk Laws** : No matter what your bromeliads do, there is always someone who knew they would.

**Green Thumb Postulate** : Experience gained is directly proportional to bromeliads ruined.

**Show Chairman's Law** : Nothing is impossible for the person who doesn't have to do it.

**Parkinson's Law** : Bromeliad collections expand to exceed the space available.

**Placement Principle** : Placement chairmen always place show plants with the fault in the most visible place.

**Phyllotron Law** : Under the most rigorously controlled conditions of light, temperature and humidity, the bromeliad will do as it damn well pleases.

This article has appeared in many Journals and Newsletters over the years.

## **From Around the Shade House**

### **Scale Control in Bromeliads** by John Crawford

In my garden, scale is most active during the months of February / March, and September / October. One of the spray materials that I use to combat scale is 'Imidacloprid,' commonly known as Confidor®. (Confidor® is a registered trademark of Bayer).

Confidor® is a systemic insecticide which I find is more effective than other forms of contact spray, as the systemic insecticide is 'absorbed through the leaf tissue and transferred throughout the plant'. It kills scale on contact as well as on the underside of the leaf.

Another scale control product by the name of Hortico Systemic Insect Killer® - with the same active constituent of 15 g/l Imidacloprid, is on the market.

I've done a price check on these two products, Bunnings Warehouse presently sells Yates Confidor® in a 200ml container for \$21.98 (.11¢ per ml), and Hortico Systemic Insect Killer® in a 250ml container for \$15.98 (.064¢ per ml). Comparing the pricing of these two products, with the same constituents, the Hortico Systemic Insect Killer®, coming in at .064¢ per ml, offers quite a saving.

If you wish to buy the RTU\* product (\*Ready To Use....no mixing) both companies offer 750ml spray packs. Current prices are - Yates Confidor® \$9.15, and Hortico Systemic Insect Killer® \$6.98. Again, both of these products have the same active constituent.

My money's on Hortico. More money left over for another bromeliad or two!

### **Vale** Norma Anderson 30 - 4 - 1917 to 8 - 2 - 2013

Norma had been part of the FNCBSG NSW since March 2011 attending monthly meetings regularly only having missed a few meetings in that time. Norma was quite active for her 95 yrs having recently been on a cruise to New Zealand. Norma mostly grew orchids, however in her later years she gained an interest in bromeliads and thoroughly enjoyed her day out at our Group meetings.

Norma will be sadly missed.

